

SAN FRANCISCO WILL TRY PREFERENTIALS

(By Associated Press.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Oct. 22.—The city will try a new system of electing its officials November 6. It is called the preferential system. The preferential system of voting will be used in place of a primary election, followed later by a general election. This system also provides for a choice of a majority of the voters. In order to be elected as a first or second choice the candidate must receive a majority of all the votes cast.

This system also does away with the unnecessary and excessive physical strain of being compelled to pass through two election campaigns, one to get the nomination and the other to secure election. Also the great length of the campaign is unnecessarily burdensome to both voters and candidates. Also the announcement of the primary returns enables the less favored candidates to combine their strength at the general election and thus accomplish defeat—something by unfair means. Also the expense of two elections under the present system necessitates a large and needless waste of public money. Already this year the city has been saved \$70,000 by the adoption of the preferential system.

To obtain an office in the municipal government under the present charter necessitates a physical and

nervous strain upon the candidate who successfully passes the ordeal of the primary election which many citizens are unwilling to endure, while the financial strain is necessarily double.

If a candidate has a business when he starts in which needs personal attention to keep it alive, he is pretty sure not to have any when the second campaign is over. It is also quite evident that the double election system has a growing tendency to weary the voter by requiring him to go to the polls twice on the same issue, instead of once, while the prolongation of the political wrangle carried on during the double campaign is, to say the least, a public nuisance.

The preferential system of voting is in operation in a number of cities of the United States and in this state.

At the primary election held September 28, 1915, 119,105 citizens voted, and at the general election held six weeks later, November 9, 1915, 83,297 citizens voted; 35,908 voters who voted at the primary election failed to vote at the general election. There was at this time 180,294 citizens registered and entitled to vote—less than 50 per cent of the registration.

The preferential system of voting will cut the cost of elections about one-third. Four election officers are used instead of six, as under the

double system of two elections, where twelve officers were used, six at each election.

The ballot for the election to be held November 6, 1917, will be the smallest ballot used at any municipal election.

The ballot is in all respects the same as the ballot heretofore used at municipal elections with the addition of two columns for voting the second and third choices.

The voter, when receiving the ballot at the polls, will go to one of the compartments, take the rubber cross and mark opposite the candidate preferred as a first choice, in the first column. Second choice, if any, will be marked in the second column, and third choice in the third column. If the voter has no second or third choice he is not by law compelled to vote second or third choice, but it is his privilege.

The count, for the first time, will be conducted by the department of elections, under the supervision of the registrar of voters at the city hall. All returns will be delivered by the election boards and the count will begin shortly after 7 o'clock p. m. on the day of the election. Three hundred and fifty precincts will be counted at one time.

Every hour during the count the public will be advised as to the progress of the count. It is expected the count will be finished early November 7.

COLORED TROOPS GO TO SETTLE OLD SCORES

(By Associated Press.)
FRENCH FRONT, Oct. 22.—"You white men are forced to fight; we are volunteers," say proudly France's colonial soldiers when they reply to questions as to the reason for their coming to Europe to fight. Whether they come from Senegal, Madagascar or Somaliland, all of them express gladness at the opportunity to pay off old scores for cruelties committed on their kindred in the German colonies in Africa, the news of which has been spread among them from one end of the continent to the other by their mysterious methods of communication. All of them know of the fate of the Herrero nation in German Southwest Africa, where only a few wandering groups remain alive of what once was a powerful negro tribe.

Undoubtedly the most popular of the French colonial volunteers are the Senegalese. Their courage in the field and their devotion to their white officers have been proverbial. The mentality of these tribesmen is almost infantile in its simplicity, but they are quick to learn. Their adaptability is such in warlike matters that they have become expert in very short time with all the most modern weapons. Many of them before coming to France have undergone training in the colonies and consequently are acquainted with European drill and discipline. Others are raw recruits, who are exercised first when they reach French soil. The eagerness of all to acquire proficiency with the new weapons is such that even in their hours of rest in their instruction camps they may be seen in groups exercising with them and repeating the words of command in French, which they rapidly learn.

It has been asserted erroneously that negro troops are not able to support the strain of a bombardment. There certainly have been instances in which a company of Senegalese, when all its white officers have been picked off by German sharpshooters, has hesitated during an advance, but this was merely because they did not know what to do. Douaumont, the battle of the Aisne, the Somme offensive, the attack at Laffaux Mill and the defense of Craonne and the California and Casemates plateau have all been scenes of the heroic courage of the negro troops under artillery fire of the most terrible character.

A battalion of Senegalese stationed on the spot where the village of Fleury had once stood on the Verdun front, during the heaviest of the fighting there, made an advance, during which their flank reached almost to the front of Douaumont. Then they walked into an onrushing fire from dozens of German machine guns. The French commander, Captain Crauvin, ordered his men to storm the machine gun positions. The German gunners, on seeing the black warriors coming at them, threw up their hands and surrendered to the number of sixty. The German resistance all along the line was overcome owing to this daring feat. Their brilliant work brought the distinction of the war cross to many of the negro troopers and the entire battalion was mentioned in army orders for its bravery.

When in rest camp the Senegalese amuse themselves like schoolboys. Dancing and singing and gambling occupy much of their time. Many of them, however, give up hours daily to learning French, for they regard everything appertaining to French as better than anything else. One of them who came upon an American munition wagon driver repairing his motor spoke to the American in his broken French. The American did not understand and the African turned and walked away, wearing a disdainful expression and remarking: "What? You don't understand French? Have you never been to school?"

MANY PROMOTIONS MADE ABROAD OF MEMBERS UNCLE SAM'S FORCES

(By Associated Press.)
BASE AMERICAN FLOTILLA IN BRITISH WATERS, Oct. 22.—The two sailors in this little seacoast town are enjoying a hitherto unheard of reign of prosperity, owing to the unprecedented demand for gold lace and new uniforms from American officers and men who have just been promoted. The promotions, permanent and temporary, in the line of the navy were made in accordance with the recommendations of the selection board which recently sat in Washington. All those in the flotilla who have been selected have now been notified, but, owing to the distance from Washington, it will be some days yet before all have their commissions. The promotions were necessary in order to create more officers for the growing navy.

The cheering news was long awaited here and it caused an avalanche of orders to fall on the unprepared sailors in the port. Every man who was given a little more rank wanted to show it on his uniform. Warrant officers, the highest non-commissioned rank, who were suddenly raised into the commissioned status and who were thus privileged to step up into the officers' mess, wanted their new uniforms to wear at table. Consequently, the local sartorial artists were swamped with demands for decorations for suits not carried in their regular limited stocks, such as appropriate devices for collars, silver anchors, silver bars, gold leaf and hundreds of yards of gold braid for sleeves.

While it cannot, for military reasons, be said how many of the of-

ficers and men of the line of the navy over here benefited by the action of the Washington board, it is not violating the rules of the censor to say that nearly all the junior officers were advanced in rank, that a large number of the warrant officers were raised to the rank of ensign and the chief petty officers rated up to warrant rank. The result is that a large percentage of the eligible portion of the personnel now have extra rank and increased pay, a fact which has created intense satisfaction.

All the ensigns of the class of 1915, of whom there are a great many in the flotilla here, are made lieutenants junior grade. Graduates of the classes of 1910-11 and about one-third of the class of 1912, who were lieutenants junior grade, are made full lieutenants. Officers who were not lieutenant commanders previous to the passage of the last act of congress enlarging the navy are made lieutenant commanders down to about three-fourths of the 1906 class.

Lieutenant commanders are made commanders down to and including about half the class of 1902. Commanders are made captains down to and beginning with the class of 1894.


The majority of the promotions are temporary. Many men are given promotion a year before they would receive it in the ordinary course of affairs.

M. J. CAFFEY has returned from a two weeks' visit with his family in Reno.

NEW ORGANIZATION IN EASTERN STAR

(By Associated Press.)
MILES CITY, Mont., Oct. 22.—"The Godmothers of Samplers" has been organized among members of the Order of the Eastern Star in Custer county, with the purpose of looking out for the comfort of soldiers from this locality in the training camps and in France. Letters or cheer to the men will be among the remembrances to be sent, it is announced, as well as more substantial presents.

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